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immobilized onto a solid support for use in removal of heavy metal ions from a contaminated aqueous medium. The MerR protein can also be produced for *in situ* metal ion binding, or it can be purified and immobilized to a support material.

In the Claims:

Replace claim 10 with the following:

10. ~~(Once Amended)~~ A method for removing divalent mercury, divalent cadmium, cobalt copper, lead, nickel or zinc cations from a source comprising divalent mercury or cadmium cations, said methods comprising the step of contacting the source with a MerR or chelon protein, whereby the MerR or chelon protein binds the divalent mercury, divalent cadmium, cobalt, copper, lead, nickel or zinc cations.

REMARKS

The amendments made to Claim 9 and to the Specification at page 3, line 29, are supported by as-filed Table 4 and by the as-filed Specification at page 10, first paragraph.

It is believed that no fee is due with this submission; however, if this is incorrect, please deduct from Deposit Account No. 07-1969 the appropriate fee for this submission and any extension of time required.

Respectfully submitted,



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